

Application No. 10/041,641
Amendment dated July 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 25, 2004

REMARKS

The indication by the Examiner that claims 1-16, 24, 28, and 29, are allowable as written in acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-16, 24, 28, and 29 are allowed;

Claim 28 is objected to because of informalities;

Claims 17, 18, 20-23, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kaji, U.S. Patent No. 6,476,868;

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kaji in view of Miyawaki, U.S. 6,522,360.

By this amendment, claim 28 has been amended to address the informalities pointed out by the Examiner. The specific recommendations provided by the Examiner are also noted with appreciation. Claim 28, as amended, should now be clear and grammatical and should not be objectionable to the Examiner. In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections.

Also by this amendment, claims 17-23 and 25-27 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the section 102 and 103 rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

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Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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